

# Standardized Testing and Reporting Program

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## Questions and Answers about the Primary Language Test Designated for Spring 1999 STAR

### **Why is there now a single primary language test designated for use in the STAR program?**

1998 amendments to the 1997 legislation establishing the STAR program require that the State Board of Education (SBE) designate a “single primary language test in each language for which such a test is available for grades 2 to 11 inclusive.” This new requirement affects Education Code sections 60640(f) and (g) pertaining to the testing of “pupils of limited English proficiency” (LEP) who may be tested with “a second achievement test in their primary language.” Education Code Section 60640(g) requires the use of a primary language test for LEP students who have been enrolled in a California public school fewer than 12 months. Education Code Section 60640(f) allows the use of a primary language test with LEP students who have been enrolled in a California public school more than 12 months. The amendments to 60640(f) require the use of the test(s) designated by the SBE.

### **What test did the SBE designate as the “single primary language test...”?**

The SBE designated the SABE/2 published by CTB McGraw Hill for the purposes of Education Code sections 60640(f) and (g). No tests were submitted in any language other than Spanish.

### **Are LEP students to be tested with both the Stanford Achievement Test and the SABE/2?**

All students in grades 2 to 11 inclusive must be tested in English with the “achievement test designated by the State Board of Education pursuant to Section 60642.” That test is the Stanford Achievement Test, Ninth Edition, Form T. The only students who may be excused are those whose Individual Educational Plan (IEP)

exempts them from testing (Education Code Section 60640(e)), and those whose parent or guardian provide a written request. Requirements for primary language testing follow Education Code sections 60640(f) and (g) as above. The same exemptions apply to primary language testing that apply to the designated test in English.

### **Will districts receive an apportionment for primary language testing?**

Districts will receive an apportionment for each student tested pursuant to Education Code section 60640(f) or (g).

### **What is the apportionment for the primary language test?**

Districts will be apportioned \$7.03 for each test administered. Of that amount, \$4.45 is to be paid to the publisher for each test administered. Districts must pay sales tax at the local rate. The amount remaining after payment to the publisher (including CA sales tax) remains with the district to cover district costs related to test administration and reporting. The district amount will be approximately \$2.20.

### **Will districts receive an apportionment for pre-identification of answer documents?**

Districts that elect the optional pre-identification of answer documents will receive \$7.18 per test administered. The \$.15 may be used as a partial offset of the charges for pre-identification.

### **What if a parent does not want his or her child tested with the primary language test?**

Education Code Section 60615 allows a parent or guardian to exempt his or her child from testing by providing a written request.

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### **What are the requirements for testing LEP students whose primary language is other than Spanish?**

Limited English proficient students whose primary language is other than Spanish must be administered the Stanford Achievement Test, Ninth Edition, Form T, along with all other students. Districts may test LEP students whose primary languages are other than Spanish, but districts will receive an apportionment only for students assessed with tests designated by the SBE.

### **May districts that have used SABE/2 in the past use their existing inventory of test materials?**

No, districts may not use their existing SABE/2 materials for the STAR program. All districts that conduct primary language testing for the purposes of STAR must enter into a standard agreement with CTB McGraw Hill for all materials and costs associated with the program. Districts must purchase test booklets, answer documents, scoring, and reporting services as specified in the standard agreement. There must not be a discrepancy between the number of test booklets ordered/used and the number of answer documents ordered/returned for scoring.

### **What should be done with any existing inventory of SABE/2 materials?**

Districts that have SABE/2 materials on hand should lock the materials away in a secure location. Districts should be sure to secure the materials so that no intermingling of previously acquired SABE/2 materials and STAR SABE/2 materials can occur.

### **What reports will be prepared for SABE/2?**

Districts will receive SABE/2 Home Reports to be mailed to the parent or guardian of each pupil tested. Districts will also receive individual student reports and various aggregate reports for groupings specified in legislation. At a minimum, districts will receive reports at the school and district levels for each grade tested as well as reports disaggregated by gender and for economically disadvantaged and non-economically disadvantaged students. County offices of education will receive reports for each district within the county.

### **Will school, district, county, and state level scores for SABE/2 be posted on the Internet?**

School, district, county, and state level scores will be posted on the Internet by June 30, 1999. Scores will not be posted or otherwise reported for groups smaller than ten.

### **Are testing accommodations permitted for special education students whose IEP specifies an accommodation?**

As with the Stanford Achievement Test, special education students whose IEPs specify an accommodation must be tested using that accommodation. The student answer document will include fields for the type of accommodation used.

Questions about the  
Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) Program  
should be directed to the  
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